

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 09/811,510
Attorney Docket No. 010314

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended herein. These amendments are based on Figure 1 and page 8, line 32 to page 9, line 23 of the specification. Claims 15-20 have been added herein. Support for the new claims is found at page 12, line 33 to page 13, line 35.

Applicants' Response to the Objection to the Specification

The office action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. In response thereto applicants have amended the title to reflect a single embodiment which more distinctly sets forth the claimed invention. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request favourable reconsideration.

Applicants' Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The office action requires clarification as to how the "tandem-connection" in the preamble of claims 1 and 8 are related to the "single tandem control unit" recited in the method step. In response thereto applicants have set forth amendments to claims 1 and 8 which clarify the above. These amendments are based on Figure 1 and page 8, line 32 to page 9, line 23 of the specification.

The tandem printing system according to the present invention is a system in which “a plurality of printers which are connected serially to each adjacent printer by a tandem-connection” operate synchronously in coordination with each other to perform printing on a same continuous recording sheet (that is, a “tandem printing operation”), and the invention is characterized in that the synchronous operation is controlled by a “tandem control unit.” The term “tandem-connection” in the application indicates a state in which the plural printers are connected serially to each other. The tandem control unit, controlling the tandem printing operation, is connected to each printer and controls the synchronous operation of these printers.

The tandem printing system further includes a “host unit” that provides print data or the like to each printer. A further features of the invention is that the tandem control unit is operable independently of the host unit (regardless of whether it is provided integrally to or separately from the host unit), and that is provided independently of (i.e., separately from) the plural printers which are connected serially to each other by tandem-connection (see page 9, lines 2-8 of the specification). The tandem control unit reduces the load of the host unit since it is operable independently of the host unit. Further, locating the control functions of the synchronous operation in an independent unit (here, the tandem control unit) separate from the printers obviates the need to provide functions specific to the tandem printing system in each printer, thus enabling the system to be configured using existing, general purpose printers. See page 9, line 24 to page 10, line 11 of the specification.

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The claims of the present application recite the above described features of the invention. Specifically, the amendments state that the plurality of printers is serially connected to each adjacent printer by a tandem connection and each printer is attached to a single tandem control unit.

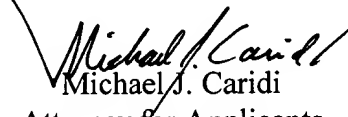
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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